

ORDERS COFFIN, THEN TURNS ON GAS AND HANGS

Funeral Director Astonished on Arrival at Home, to Find Man Who Dealt With Him.

TOLD UNDERTAKER HIS MAN WOULD SURELY DIE

Dissuaded From Suicide By Paris Green, Forthright Ago, He Finally Succeeds.

John Jacob Meyers, aged 60, of 1030 Hancock avenue, called at the undertaking parlors of Funeral Director Louis E. Richards, in Elm street, yesterday.

"I want to arrange for a friend who is very ill. He'll surely die in a few hours," said Meyers to Richards.

Richards took his order for coffin, shroud, and other details of the funeral arrangements.

This morning Richards got a call to 1030 Hancock avenue. He discovered that the man who was dead was none other than the visitor of yesterday.

Meyers, who had made doubly sure of death by first turning on the gas in a tightly shut-in kitchen, then hanged himself from the gas fixtures on a brand new rope.

When Funeral Director Richards reached the scene of death, he found in the pocket of the suicide the memorandum of casket selected, shroud and other details.

Dependence over being out of work and a riot over his war-swept German fatherland are responsible. About two weeks ago Meyers brought home a package of Paris green and dependently said that it was still in bad when he arrived on the rush call and out it down. Dr. S. M. Garlick, medical examiner, was notified and investigated, reporting it a case of suicide.

Near his daughter's feet was found a chair in which he apparently stood to adjust the rope before jumping into eternity. Tightly closed windows and an opened gas jet attested his determination to die.

Understandably, the information that the man who had picked out the casket and arranged the funeral for a friend was the one intending to have the casket at his own couch during the last long sleep.

For some time, according to the family, Meyers had been searching for work and brooded over his inability to obtain it. He was still in bad when his son left the house about 6:30 o'clock and when his wife went out about half an hour later. They understood that he had been partially successful in securing work temporarily on a nearby farm and that he intended to begin work today.

Meyers was born in Germany but had lived in Bridgeport for many years, having been employed as a laborer and was well thought of. He is survived by his wife and two sons, who are grieved over the tragedy.

OVER 3,000 CASES FOR COMPENSATION COMMISSIONER HERE

This Total Is for 10 Months Up to November 1—Law Works Well

According to the statistics compiled in the office of Compensation Commissioner E. T. Buckingham, there have been 2,229 persons in Bridgeport county injured while at their daily occupations from the ten months from January 1, 1914, to November 1. All these persons were incapacitated from following their usual occupations for a day or more.

This total does not include all who met with misfortune which prevented them from following their usual occupation. Early in the year the working of the law was not as well understood as it is at present and therefore many of the accidents which occurred in the first months of the year were not reported to the Compensation Commissioner by either the person injured or the employer.

During January and February, 475 persons were hurt while at their usual employment. In March 200 persons were injured. During April, May and June, 372 persons were so injured that they were incapacitated from following the usual vocations for a day each or more. In the month of August, 410 such cases were reported and for September and October together 367 cases.

Compensation Commissioner Buckingham is endeavoring to impress on all employers the necessity for reporting at once to their employers any accident of any nature which befall them in the course of their employment. Up to date the commissioner has had no occasion to find fault with any employer for failure to promptly report accidents. A penalty of \$100 is provided for the employer who fails to report to the compensation commissioner within one week after the time occurs, any accident which incapacitates any employee from performing his daily work for at least one day.

The commissioner has noted that there have been a number of cases where employees were injured while

ST. VINCENT'S FUND GETS FINE START: \$26,600 PLEDGED

Announcement was made at the big "get together" banquet last night that \$26,000 had been subscribed to the St. Vincent's hospital fund. This is more than one-quarter of the \$100,000 sum to be sought in the campaign which formally opened today. The total of each day's collections will be printed daily in The Farmer. The contributions announced last night are:

A Friend	\$10,000
Knights of Columbus	5,000
Anonymous	5,000
Miss Anna Jennings	1,000
Warner Bros. Co.	1,000
Bpt. Hydraulic Co.	1,000
Bpt. Gas Light Co.	500
D. M. Read Co.	500
Howland Dry Goods Co.	500
William E. Allen	500
John T. King	500
William P. Kirk	500
William Farrell	200
Smith-Murray Co.	100
Other donations now in bank	300
Total	\$26,600

HOSPITAL ARMY IN FIELD CONFIDENT OF GREAT VICTORY

Two Score Automobiles Whirl Collectors Through All Parts of Bridgeport.

Big Clock, Registering More Than Quarter of Task Accomplished, Attracts Much Attention.

Flushed with the success of last night's "get together" which resulted in the collection of \$26,600, the hospital fund workers in the St. Vincent's Hospital Fund Raising Campaign started early today on their eleven days' task of pushing the subscriptions above the \$100,000 mark.

Everywhere there was an air of confidence that this aim would be accomplished. The chairman of the campaign, Mr. J. E. Burr, said that the \$100,000 would be subscribed within a week. Frank A. Converse, in charge of campaign headquarters, basing his estimates on the subscription list last night, said that the \$100,000 mark should be exceeded by November 28 when the campaign closes.

At 1 o'clock this afternoon, about forty automobiles, carrying about 150 workers, started from headquarters to make flying trips to prospective givers in the city and surrounding towns. Just before the workers left headquarters, it was announced that another handsome contribution had been sent to the finance committee. It was for \$300 and the donor is M. H. Ford.

At Main and Congress streets, the big clock which will keep public tabs on the subscription list was erected today. A big red hand points to \$26,600—the amount the committee had on hand this morning in pledges or contributions. Tomorrow morning the hand will be pushed forward to include the total of today's subscriptions.

The workers will meet tonight at 6:30 o'clock in the big hall on the top floor of the Roll building, where a hot supper will be served. Thirty-five young ladies from the various parishes of the city will assist in the serving of the suppers which will continue nightly until the end of the campaign.

Immediately after the supper each night, the committee will call on the team captains for reports of the day's work. As each captain announces the total of his team's collection, the sum will be chalked up on a huge score board that covers the entire wall at the south end of the hall.

Already friendly rivalry has developed among team captains as to which will have the banner team for the campaign. The scoreboard in the hall will show each team's work from day to day and will also record the grand total daily.

The nightly checking up of reports will not require more than an hour and the workers' business will be concluded by 8 o'clock at the latest. The offices of the executive committee today were moved to the top floor of the building. In order to facilitate the nightly checking up of reports.

Frank A. Converse, in an interview today, said: "It looks now as if the campaign will be even a greater success than we anticipated. The finance committee's happy report of last night gives us a handsome sum—\$26,000—with which to begin work."

The enthusiasm at the banquet last night cannot do other than spur success, if it is manifest to the end of the campaign. We have got zealous committees and workers to aid us and the only answer to this combination can be \$100,000 or more."

COLUMBUS SCHOOL WORK IS FORMALLY ACCEPTED

At 4 o'clock this afternoon, Commissioners Ryan, Osborn, Schwerdtle and Hurley accepted on behalf of the board of education the Columbus school addition from the architect, C. T. Boardley.

CHAMBERLAIN NAMED; APPEAL IS THREATENED

Burr & Knapp Bankruptcy Hearing Before Referee Banks Develops Many Charges.

LAWYER SELECTED IS CLOSE TO KNAPP

But Majority of Creditors Expressed Confidence in Him Knapp on Witness Stand.

Attorney John C. Chamberlain was this morning confirmed as trustee for the bankrupt firm of Burr & Knapp, though the minority creditors through their attorney, Lawrence Finkelstone, opposed the appointment before Referee John W. Banks to the last ditch and filed notice of intent to appeal.

Herbert M. Knapp, head of the bankruptcy concern, was placed upon the stand in an effort to show his close personal relations with Attorney Chamberlain. Though an evasive witness, he acknowledged that he had been in the banking business since 1893, that he had known Chamberlain for nearly 20 years, that they were fellow members of many clubs, and that through Elbert O. Hull, who foreclosed mortgages for the bankers, the firm of Chamberlain & Hull had done much business for them.

It was shown that both Knapp and Chamberlain were interested in the Georgia Land & Trust Co., the Water-viet Hydraulic Co. and the City Guaranty Title & Deposit Co.

An attempt on the part of Attorney Finkelstone to ascertain if Chamberlain had not acted in an advisory capacity in the matter of carborundum investments in Canada, was frustrated by the witness who showed that this matter was taken care of by his former partner.

Knapp acknowledged working for the appointment of Chamberlain as he was of the opinion that it would mean between \$75,000 and \$100,000 more to the creditors. He denied that he had paid Chamberlain any retainer.

An acrimonious note sounded at this morning's hearing was struck when Attorney Finkelstone shifted his line of inquiry to the Fairview Farm, asking Knapp if he had listed this as an asset of the Burr & Knapp concern. Knapp believed that this appeared on a later schedule under the sales and contract account. It then developed that the note for \$10,000 was deposited with the Bridgeport National Bank made by Harvey E. Burr and endorsed by both Knapp & Chamberlain. It was done "as an accommodation," according to the witness, who was later to admit that he had turned over \$30,000 worth of Fairview contracts and gave an absolute deed to the property at the same time. In this transaction there was no verbal understanding as to what would be done with the property in the event of the note not being met, the deed simply being given.

It appeared also that when the bank failed Knapp had but \$50 in his pockets and that his trips were financed later by the Georgia Loan & Trust Co. and other corporations for which he now supposed to be doing business. While the money came through the hands of Attorney Chamberlain it was denied that it was from him directly, or from the funds of Burr & Knapp.

Knapp denied that Chamberlain had gone to New York city and brought him back to this city, but rather that he had called Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain upon in New York and brought them back to Bridgeport.

When Attorney Finkelstone attempted to show that Chamberlain yesterday testified that the note had been purchased by him, he had to admit that he had made the note and Chamberlain and Burr & Knapp endorsed it. Attorney Chamberlain roundly scorned his brother attorney, stating that it was a new experience to have a lawyer come into the court and detail matters talked of in ordinary conversation, which his opponent replied that he would expect the same things told in confidence to be repeated upon a witness stand under oath.

Referee Banks here put an end to the close relationship between the matters of record be brought before the hearing.

In summing up, Attorney Finkelstone protested against the confirmation of the referee who had Chamberlain through the firm of Chamberlain & Hull is still attorney for the bankruptcy concern, that they are interested in many concerns and that their social and business relations are closely intertwined.

Referee Banks confirmed the appointment of Chamberlain as trustee upon the ground that he represented the creditors' interests and that by a vote of 424 against 150 votes for C. S. Canfield, and 28 for The American Bank & Trust Co. The creditors' knowledge of the close relationship between the two men had sufficient confidence in Chamberlain to give him this large majority, he pointed out, and added that the redress of the minority creditors was in an appeal to the circuit court judge, notice of which was entered by Attorney Finkelstone.

Bonds were set at \$100,000 for the trustee, who said that he hoped to cover at least that amount of money for the creditors while attorney for the minority creditors was willing that it should be fixed at \$50,000. Permission was given to maintain one attorney and an office to close up the affairs of the concern.

ALDERMAN WALKER ABLE TO BE OUT

Alderman Daniel E. Walker, who more than a week ago suffered a compound fracture of his right arm in a fall, came down town in his automobile and paid a short visit to city hall. The alderman is still weak from the shock and loss of blood.

LONGEST NEW HAVEN TRAIN LEAVES HERE

The longest train ever drawn over the tracks of the New Haven road and that is believed to be the second largest ever made up in the world, was sent from Bridgeport to the Harlem river yards at New York last night. The train contained 201 cars, 30 of which were loaded. It was drawn by three electric locomotives.

The three locomotives brought to this city last night, a train with a gross tonnage of 45,000 tons, the heaviest train ever brought here. The big train taken on the return trip to New York was made up in the record time of eight minutes. Railroaders here say the largest train in railroad history had 250 cars and was sent an equal distance over the Erie railroad.

WILL AMPLIFY FIRE AND POLICE SIGNAL SYSTEM SERVICE

Experts Here to Examine Arrangements of Police and Fire Departments.

Many New Red Lights To Be Installed in Police Alarm System—New Switchboard Planned.

Notable improvements to the police and fire department signal systems are expected to be completed this month as a result of the presence of Engineer John Schaefer of the Game-well system in Bridgeport Sunday during which time he conferred with Police Electrician Sheridan A. Ladd and fire department officials, including Commissioner John H. Tague.

The improvements relate to the extension of the red lights at night to designate the location of fire alarm boxes and to act as emergency police calls. In a way this feature will be interlocked with the signal systems of the two departments.

A piece of mechanism, known as a "flasher," is now on its way to police headquarters and is expected to be installed within a week. Its operation provides for the man on the desk at headquarters being able to send an emergency call to street men on any of the red lights over fire alarm boxes. By throwing on the desired circuit, or at circuits, the red lights flash every two or three seconds until the desired number of men are alerted. With the power thrown off the lights resume their steady burning. While the "flasher" will be installed at police headquarters the motor-generator will be installed at fire headquarters on Middle street.

The police department now has the old style red light calls at Main and Golden Hill streets, Cannon and Broad, Fairfield avenue and Water street and State and Water streets. The new additional locations are Middle and Congress, Washington avenue and Main, Arch and Main, Gold and Main, Elm and Harrison, Court and Main, and Fairfield avenue, Broad and State streets, Broad and Prospect, Golden Hill and Middle, Wall and Water, Bank and Water, Fairfield avenue and Main street, Wall and Main, Bank and Main and Gilbert and Main. As soon as possible, it is planned to extend the system to the other parts of the city, considered important from a police standpoint.

Engineer Schaefer and Electrician Ladd went over the plans for improving the regular police signal system. The Board of Apportionment is to be asked to authorize the purchase of a new adequate switchboard at headquarters, the one in present use, being destined for the second precinct.

The action will be taken regarding the third precinct until a new station house is built.

A rough estimate is being made of the calls coming over the headquarters switchboard. It is estimated that over 22,000 calls are received each year. For the sake of comparison these figures are to be placed alongside of the demands upon the elaborate fire alarm system. An average of one or two calls each day in the year would be insignificant in comparison with the police switchboard demands.

STEEPLECHASE FOLKS IN LITIGATION OVER MERRY-GO-ROUND RENT

"The Open Drawbridge or Why the Merry-Go-Round is a Good Investment," was the title of a five film moving picture. It is merely one episode in the suit brought by the Bridgeport Steeplechase Co. against B. A. Murphy, who formerly held a concession at the island.

Before Judge Scott and a jury in the common pleas court this afternoon, Attorney Shannon told why his client, B. A. Murphy, had been unable to sell his merry-go-round. He had an offer of \$2,000 from a New York man but when he attempted to move the flying horses, the drawbridge was opened and the painted steeds had to remain in limbo.

George C. Tillyou, the Coney Island amusement promoter who is president of the Bridgeport Steeplechase Co., was a witness for the company. He said Murphy had agreed to pay \$1,000 a year rent for the merry-go-round concession and still owed \$599.89. Tillyou testified that he has amusement concessions at Atlantic City, St. Louis and San Francisco. The suit is for \$1,000.

Murphy admits signing the lease but says an agreement was afterward made to cancel it. He declares that by reason of the open drawbridge he lost chance to sell the merry-go-round and therefore files a counter-claim for \$2,000 damages.

In his cross-examination of Mr. Tillyou, Attorney Shannon said that the attendance at the island kept growing smaller so that the concession was worthless. The trial had not been finished at press hour.

ARMIES NEAR FLANDERS BATTLE AGAINST BLIZZARD

ENGLAND TAKES DRASTIC STEPS TO SAVE NAVY

LONDON, NOV. 17.—PREMIER ASQUITH STATED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TODAY THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO DECLARE THE WHOLE OF THE NORTH SEA TO BE IN THE MILITARY AREA.

ALL SUBJECTS OF THE ENEMY FOUND ON NEUTRAL VESSELS, THE PREMIER ALSO SAID, WOULD BE LIABLE TO DETENTION AS PRISONERS OF WAR.

MR. ASQUITH ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT OIL AND COPPER WOULD BE DECLARED CONTRABAND OF WAR.

Last Minute News Of The War

Amsterdam, Nov. 16.—Via The Hague and London, Nov. 17.—The Handelsblad tonight prints an editorial article headed "Is Intervention Possible?" in which it urges the co-operation of the Queen of the Netherlands and President Wilson, of the United States, in using "this psychological moment" to offer mediation by these two neutral nations.

London, Nov. 17.—Grave fears are expressed for the safety of the British liner La Correntina, which has not been heard of since she left Buenos Ayres for Liverpool on October 5. She carried a cargo of meat worth \$1,000,000.

London, Nov. 17.—A despatch from Copenhagen to the Star says it is learned from a good source that a Russian squadron has left Helsingfor, Finland, and is steering southwest with the supposed intention of engaging the German Baltic squadron.

London, Nov. 17.—In deference to the public wish, the body of the late Earl Roberts will be laid at rest in St. Paul's cathedral. He will be given a public funeral of an elaborate military character.

OFFICIAL REPORTS ON THE WAR

GERMAN

Berlin, Nov. 17.—By wireless to London—German army headquarters have not received this afternoon any official report of the day's progress.

"Generally speaking, yesterday passed quietly in the western arena of the war. To the south of Verdun and to the canal to the north of Dixmude, the French made several attacks which, however, were unsuccessful.

"Operations in the eastern arena were carried on favorably by the Russian army. Detailed reports are not yet at hand."

FRENCH

Paris, Nov. 17.—There was given out in Paris this afternoon the following official communication:

"From Nieuport to Dixmude and in the region of Ypres, the cannonading has been resumed with greater violence than in the preceding days. On the canal to the north of Dixmude, the action of our artillery checked the work that the Germans were endeavoring to carry out to keep down the inundations. The enemy was compelled to evacuate a portion of his trenches, which had been filled by the waters."

"Two attacks of German infantry, one to the south of Dixmude and the other to the south of Ypres, resulted in failure. On our side we have made progress between Dixmude and the canal. Between Armentieres and La Bassée there has been an artillery duel conducted with great spirit."

"On our positions on the right bank of the Alsne up stream from Vailly, there has been violent cannonading. This continues also to the Rheims and several shells have fallen in the city of Rheims."

AUSTRIAN

Berlin, Nov. 17.—A general review of the situation in the eastern arena, based on official information from Vienna, indicates that the latest German and Austrian victories are such that the advance of the Russians has been rendered more difficult. This success, however, must not be over-

CANDIDATES ARE DELINQUENT WITH ELECTION ACCOUNTS

Although but one more day remains in which they may file their campaign expenses and disbursements, a number of candidates for office at the last election and election officers have failed to comply with this provision of the Corrupt Practices act. There is a penalty of \$25 per day for each day over the time limit that the candidate neglects to file the list. Among those who have neglected to file lists up to press hour today were: John J. Broderick, treasurer of the Democratic town committee, and William E. Seelye, treasurer of the Republican town committee. Republican candidates who neglected to file election expenses are: Charles H. Quintall, selectman; Abe Geludick, justice of the peace; Fred R. Canfield, defeated for

estimated, for the Russian losses, although severe do not mean that the Russian movement has collapsed. Considering the enormous numbers of available soldiers, it does not even mean the discontinuance of the Russian offensive.

"News reaching here from Vienna is to the effect that all along the Gallic border the military activity leads German observers to suppose that the Austrians also have taken the offensive."

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Rain and Snow Bring Death to Thousands In the Trenches—Germans Make Brave Stand to Hold Ground—Sharp Artillery Duels Mark Belgian Warfare.

German Casualties of Four Days Placed at 100,000, Are Buried In Single Grave—British Losses While 40,000 Austrians Also Reported Heavy.

Storms and floods, the enormous loss of life and the strain of incessant fighting apparently have taxed to the limit of human endurance the armies facing each other in the death struggle in Belgium and northern France. Another lull has come in the great battle which presumably is but the prelude to one more desperate effort.

Today's reports from the front indicate that assaults by infantry and cavalry have been abandoned for the moment, except for the minor engagements, and that only the artillery is continuing operations with vigor undiminished.

Meanwhile the fighting continues on many other fields. The Russian invasion of Turkish territory from the Caucasus has been halted. The great campaign of the Russians against the Austria-German armies proceeds with varying fortunes in different localities, with chief interest now centering on the new German offensive movement against the Russian center.

In Serbia the Austrian advance is being carried on, according to Vienna reports, with further success.

Accounts of the fighting in Belgium, official and otherwise, dwell upon the frightful hardships which the men in the water-soaked trenches are called upon to endure and the great loss of life. One report, coming from a British correspondent, estimates the German casualties in the last four days at 100,000.

A letter written by a Galician priest describes a grave more than four miles long. In it, says the letter, 40,000 Austrians, the dead from one day's fighting, were buried.

The most that is being accomplished in the west by this sort of warfare, as the latest British communications indicate, is that the allies have been able to hold their lines in the main, with here and there some retirements before the German assaults. The British losses, it is acknowledged, are very heavy. An official narrative of the fighting given out in London pays an unreserved tribute to the bravery of the Germans.

Report From Paris

The French official communication of today, after emphasizing the violent character of the fighting, mentions a few localities in Belgium and along the Alsne where German infantry attacks were made. These attacks, it is said, were repulsed.

The fighting along the eastern boundary of Germany is of a different character. There is nothing there to correspond with the endless lines of trenches which stretch across France. Movements of troops are more mobile and the main battle line is shifting constantly. In France an advance of a few yards is deemed worthy of mention. In Galicia, Russian Poland and East Prussia, they measure movements by scores of miles.

Private advices from Petrograd dispute the German claims to success in Russian Poland, asserting that the German offensive movement has failed.

The Russian squadron is said to have left Helsingfor, Finland, with the supposed intention of engaging the German Baltic fleet.

Russia admits the truth of recent Turkish statements that the invaders from the north had been driven back. The Russian advance guard, it is announced officially, has been forced to halt its march on Erzerum.

THE WEATHER.

Fair and colder tonight; Wednesday fair and cold.